

proposal for exploration of graphite in these districts.

(d) Does not arise.

Modern Sation of Sone Canal

*317. SHRICHHEDIPASWAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in modernisation of Sone Canal Project in Bihar; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Sone Canal Modernisation Project Phase I was examined and found techno-economically acceptable, but could not be given investment clearance by the Planning Commission due to inability of the State Government to provide adequate budgetary support for this project. The State Government is required to re-formulate the scheme in the light of the diagnostic studies suggested by the Planning Commission and update the cost estimates. In the meanwhile, the Dumraon branch canal of the Sone Canal System has been included in the National Water Management project and the improvement works covered therein have been provided with assistance from the World Bank.

Diplomatic Relations with Israel

*318. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI SRIBALLAV
PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish diplomatic relations with Israel

in view of the recent political developments taking place in Europe, Middle East and other regions;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to play a constructive role in bringing peace to West Asia; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):

(a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Normalisation of relations with Israel is contingent upon genuine progress in the on going peace process in West Asia.

(d) and (e). India is committed to supporting all efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement in West Asia. We will continue to work for this.

Sanctions Against South Africa

*319. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's decision to life people-to-people sanctions including cultural and sports boycott of South Africa was communicated to the African National Congress only and not to the Government of South Africa; and

(b) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. The decision was communicated to the African National Congress and not to the Government of South Africa.

(b) Because India does not maintain relations with the South African Government, the decision was not conveyed to it.

Setting up of a Copper Plant in Madhya Pradesh

*320 SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large deposits of copper in Malanjkhand Copper Mines in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up a Copper Plant there on the pattern of the Plant in Khetri (Rajasthan);

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the estimated cost and location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to set up a copper smelting plant in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d). A feasibility study for optimal exploitation of Malanjkhand copper deposits is under progress which, inter alia, also includes the question of setting up of a smelting plant together with related issues like its cost and location.

Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas

*321. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas and crude oil produced in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase their Production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Approximately 100 million tonnes of crude oil and 48.2 billion cubic metres of gas were produced during the last three financial years.

A number of oil and gas development projects are being implemented to augment the production of crude oil and natural gas.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

*322. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more such Kendras in various States;

(c) if so, their location, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which these Kendras are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Sir, so far ICAR has established 109 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country. State-wise list is given in the enclosed. Statement.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The number and location will depend upon the availability of financial resources and infrastructural facilities.